

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Minnesota Alliance With Youth

Application ID: 13ES147106

Program Name: Northern Promise Fellows

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

(+) The applicant references data reported by the Minnesota Department of Education that shows that even though 82% of white students graduate, only 42% of American Indians, 49% of Blacks, and 50% of Hispanic/Latinos graduate. This strongly justifies a need in this community to close the achievement gap between white and minority students.

(+) The applicant clearly articulates that low achievement and the graduation rate gap between white and minority students negatively affects the health and well-being of entire communities. The applicant effectively presents data from the Alliance for Excellent Education, the Minnesota Alliance With Youth Promise, America's Promise Alliance, and the Duluth Delegation on Educational Outcomes to show the importance of community collaboration to impact improvement.

(+) The applicant indicated that sustainability is approached by improved fund raising, more grants than the CNCS grant, strong in-kind match, and cash match from the partners at the rate of 100%. The sustainability goal is approached even though it is not met. It appears that the community partners value the services, and they have indicated the value through their own strong support.

(-) The responsibilities and duties of the AmeriCorps members seem broad in terms of the scope of proposed activities. Given the diversity of these duties, the plan to have each Member serve with 30 students across several grade levels seems overwhelming.

(-) The applicant states that students will engage in meaningful service-learning activities for 20 hours, but does not provide specific details in regards to how these hours will be structured in to the program design.